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menced) the taking of the catalogue plates is generally well advanced, and that some progress has been made with the chart-plates. The measurement and reduction of the catalogue plates have been begun by more than half the observatories, and considerable progress has been made by six or seven of them.

The Congress first turned its attention to the degree of accuracy which it was desirable to obtain in the measurement of the photographs. It was decided that the probable error of the measured co-ordinates ought not to exceed $\pm 0''.20$.

The choice of the reference-stars and the methods of measurement and reduction were left to the discretion of the Directors of the co-operating observatories. It was resolved that the measured rectilinear co-ordinates should be published as soon as possible, along with the necessary data for obtaining the Right Ascension and Declination of the stars when required. With regard to the magnitudes, the Congress laid down no conditions except that the methods adopted for their determination should be capable of precise definition, so that the scales employed at different observatories might be readily comparable. For the Chart, it was decided that in the odd zones a triple exposure of 30^m should be given.

Captain ABNEY undertook to supply the different observatories with scales which should be printed on the plates at the same time as the *rêseau*, and supply a measure of the sensibility of the plates for light of different intensities. It was also resolved that two positives of each chart-plate should be made on glass, and that one of them should be placed in the *Bureau National des Poids et Mesures.*"—From *Monthly Notices* R. A. S., Vol. LVII, p. 298.

WEATHER AT MT. HAMILTON IN THE WINTER OF 1896–97.

The following data are taken from the meteorological records for the respective months, the record for March being included to date:—

	1896. Nov.	Dec.	1897. Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Total.
Cloudy nights	14	17	10	18	15	74
Rainfall (including melted snow), in inches .	5.8	4.9	3.5	5.9	0.6	20.7
Snowfall, in inches	1	3	2	17	30	53

During the first three of these months, the clear nights, and occasionally part of a night marked "cloudy," were suitable for observing. A few nights were very good, but from January 25th to date there have been but fourteen clear nights, and not more than one-half that number on which the "seeing" could be called good.

R. G. AITKEN.

MT. HAMILTON, March 20, 1897.

THE COMPANION OF *SIRIUS*, OBSERVED AT GLASGOW, MISSOURI, WITH A TWELVE-INCH TELESCOPE.

[Extract of a letter from Professor H. S. PRITCHETT.]

"Saturday night, March 20, 1897, I was at Glasgow, and the night was unusually fine. I have seldom seen so good a one in this climate. With the 12½-inch glass, both my father and myself saw the *Sirius* companion (shutting the bright star out of the field). The result of three settings of the micrometer gave $p = 195^\circ$; s (estimated) between $3''$ and $4''$."

THE BRUCE MEDAL OF THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF THE PACIFIC.

It is the intention of Miss CATHERINE WOLFE BRUCE, to whom Astronomy in all parts of the world owes so many and such intelligent benefactions, to found and endow a gold medal, to be awarded not oftener than once a year by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, "for distinguished services to Astronomy." It is Miss BRUCE's desire that the medal shall be international in character, and that it shall be awarded to citizens of any country, and to persons of either sex.

The medal is to be of gold, about sixty millimetres in diameter, and is to bear the seal of the Society on the *obverse*.* The *reverse* is to bear an appropriate inscription. The formal offer of Miss BRUCE will be made, and the medal founded and endowed, during the present year, so that the first award can be made (if desirable) for the year 1898. At the proper time, due acknowledgments will be offered to Miss BRUCE for this very generous gift to Science and to the Society. Not only will the BRUCE medal tend to the advancement of Astronomy, and enable the Astronomical Society of the Pacific to adequately recognize scientific work of the highest class (and these are Miss BRUCE's only desires), but it will forever connect the name of

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* See these *Publications*, Volume III, page 78, for a full-sized drawing of the seal.